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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 20-57 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants AMEND claims 20, 41 and 55.

Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 29-34 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants filed Information Disclosure Statements in the Patent Office on April 2, 2004 and June 2, 2004. However, signed and initialed copies of the Forms PTO-1449 were not included in the Office Action. Applicants have not provided copy of the IDSs as the Image File Wrapper of the present application on the PTO website indicates that the PTO received these documents. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the IDSs and include copies of the signed and initialed Forms PTO-1449 in the next Office Action.

The Examiner objected to claim 55 for allegedly containing minor informalities. Applicants have amended claim 55 to recite "the second group of electrically conducting members which are not electrically connected to ~~either of the~~ at least ~~two one~~ electrically conductive plates ~~plate are~~ is arranged to transmit signals through the connector." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claim 55.

The Examiner rejected claims 20-25, 34-37, 39-42, 44, 46-52, and 54-57 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Harwath (U.S. 5,730,609). The Examiner rejected claims 41, 42, and 50-57 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Korsunsky et al. (U.S. 6,039,583). The Examiner rejected claims 26-28, 38, 43, and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harwath in view of Korsunsky et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 20-28 and 35-57.

Claim 20 has been amended to recite:

"An electrical connector, comprising:
a plurality of electrically conducting members;
a first electrically conducting plate; and
a second electrically conducting plate positioned opposite to and
oriented substantially in parallel with the first electrically conducting plate;

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wherein

a first group of the plurality of electrically conducting members are electrically connected to a respective one of the first and second electrically conducting plates and a second group of the plurality of electrically conducting members are not electrically connected to either of the first and second electrically conducting plates; and

at least one electrically conducting member of the first group is adjacent to at least one electrically conducting member of the second group; wherein

at least one of the first group of the plurality of electrically conducting members is substantially identical to at least one of the second group of the plurality of electrically conducting members."
(emphasis added)

Claim 20 has been amended to recite:

"An electrical connector, comprising:

a plurality of electrically conducting members arranged along a row;

at least one electrically conducting plate disposed substantially parallel to the row of electrically conducting members; and

a plurality of connection portions; wherein

the plurality of conducting members, the at least one electrically conducting plate, and the plurality of connection portions are arranged such that a first group of the plurality of conducting members can be selected to be electrically connected to the at least one electrically conducting plate and a second group of the plurality of conducting members can be selected to not be electrically connected to the at least one electrically conducting plate after the completion of the manufacturing of the electrical connector."
(emphasis added)

Applicants' claim 20 recites the feature of "at least one of the first group of the plurality of electrically conducting members is substantially identical to at least one of the second group of the plurality of electrically conducting members."

Applicants' claim 41 recites the feature of "the plurality of conducting members, the at least one electrically conducting plate, and the plurality of connection portions are arranged such that a first group of the plurality of conducting members can be selected to be electrically connected to the at least one electrically conducting plate and a second group of the plurality of conducting members can be selected to not be

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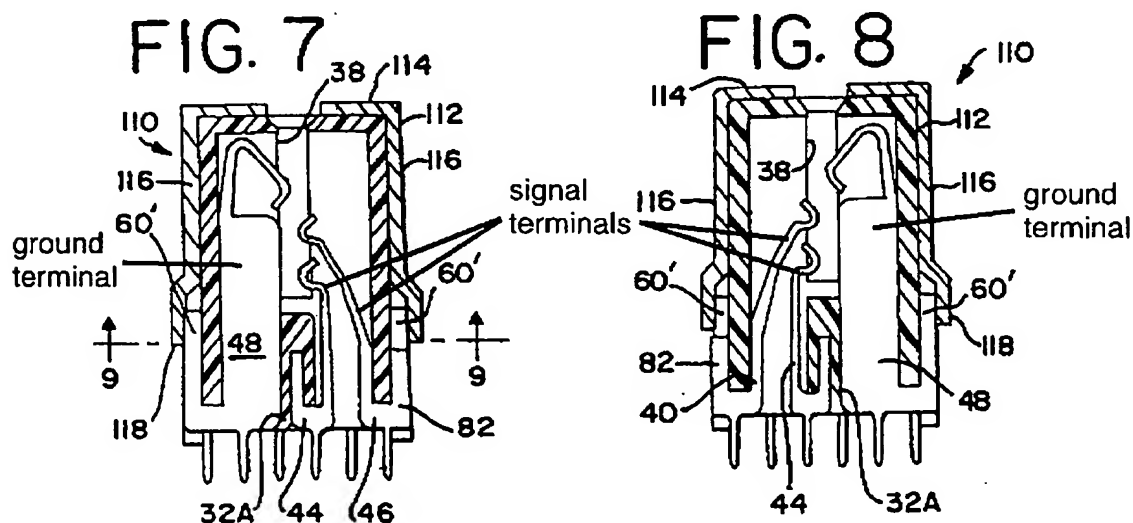
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electrically connected to the at least one electrically conducting plate after the completion of the manufacturing of the electrical connector."

With the improved features of claim 20 and 41, Applicants have been able to provide an electrical connector which allows for customization regarding which pins are grounded and which are not (see, for example, the first full paragraph on page 3 of the originally filed Specification).

Applicants amended claim 20 to recite the feature of "at least one of the first group of the plurality of electrically conducting members is substantially identical to at least one of the second group of the plurality of electrically conducting members."

Harwath teach that signal terminals 44 and 46 are not connected to ground and that ground terminals 48 are connected to ground. Further, in Figs. 7 and 8 (reproduced below), Harwath teaches that each of signal terminal 44, signal terminal 46, and ground terminal 48 have completely different structures.



That is, Harwath teaches that every ground terminal 48 that is connected to conducting plates 116 is not identical to any of the signal terminals 44 and 46 that are not connected to conducting plates 116.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Harwath fails to teach or suggest the feature of "at least one of the first group of the plurality of electrically conducting members is substantially identical to at least one of the second group of the plurality of

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electrically conducting members."

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Harwath.

Applicants amended claim 41 to recite the feature of "the plurality of conducting members, the at least one electrically conducting plate, and the plurality of connection portions are arranged such that a first group of the plurality of conducting members can be selected to be electrically connected to the at least one electrically conducting plate and a second group of the plurality of conducting members can be selected to not be electrically connected to the at least one electrically conducting plate after the completion of the manufacturing of the electrical connector."

Lines 46-50 of line 1 of Korsunsky et al. state, "**A problem exists with current designs in that once a connector is manufactured with a specified signal to ground contact ratio, that ratio can not be changed without redesigning the housing, contacts and ground plane.**" Lines 8-11 of column 5 of Korsunsky et al. state, "An advantage of the present invention is that **the ground plane 60 can be easily configured to achieve various signal to ground contact ratios** with out any modification to the housing 20 or overall dimensions of the ground plane 60." That is, Korsunsky et al. clearly teaches that the ground plane **60** must be modified in order to change the signal to ground contact ratio. Further, as clearly seen in **Figs. 1 and 4**, once the ground plane **60** has been assembled with the insulative housing **20**, it is impossible to modify the ground plane **60** without out disassembling the electrical connector **10** because access to the ground plane **60** is prevented by upright section **30**.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Korsunsky et al. fails to teach or suggest the feature of "the plurality of conducting members, the at least one electrically conducting plate, and the plurality of connection portions are arranged such that a first group of the plurality of conducting members can be selected to be electrically connected to the at least one electrically conducting plate and a second group of the plurality of conducting members can be selected to not be electrically connected to the at least one electrically conducting plate after the completion of the manufacturing of the

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electrical connector.”

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 41 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Korsunsky et al.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the prior art of record, applied alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the unique combination and arrangement of elements recited in claim 20 and 41 of the present application. Claims 21-40 and 42-57 depend upon claims 20 and 41 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claims 20 and 41 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 11, 2005


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PTOL-413A (09-04)
Approved for use through 07/31/2006, OMB 0651-0031**Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form**

Application No.: 10/822,9306 First Named Applicant: Brian VICICH
 Examiner: Hammond Art Unit: 2833 Status of Application: pending

Tentative Participants:

(1) Peter Medley (56,125) (2) Steve Koopman
 (3) John Hynes (4) _____

Proposed Date of Interview: 05/11/2005 Proposed Time: 1 (AM/PM)

Type of Interview Requested:

(1) ☐ Telephonic (2) ☒ Personal (3) ☐ Video Conference

Exhibit To Be Shown or Demonstrated: ☐ YES ☒ NO

If yes, provide brief description: _____

Issues To Be Discussed

Issues (Rej., Obj., etc)	Claims/ Fig. #s	Prior Art	Discussed	Agreed	Not Agreed
(1) <u>rejection</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>Harwath</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(2) <u>rejection</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>Korsunsky et al.</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3) _____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(4) _____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuation Sheet Attached					

Brief Description of Arguments to be Presented:

Applicant wants to discuss the difference between the claims as
amended and the prior art.

An interview was conducted on the above-identified application on _____.

NOTE: This form should be completed by applicant and submitted to the examiner in advance of the interview (see MPEP § 713.01).

This application will not be delayed from issue because of applicant's failure to submit a written record of this interview. Therefore, applicant is advised to file a statement of the substance of this interview (37 CFR 1.133(b)) as soon as possible.

Applicant/Applicant's Representative Signature _____

Examiner/SPE Signature _____

Typed/Printed Name of Applicant or Representative _____

Registration Number, if applicable _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.133. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 21 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.